

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-controlled arrangement for housing a large number of milking animals, each of which belongs to one of a plurality of groups, said arrangement comprising:

- a resting area wherein the milking animals are allowed to rest;
- a feeding area wherein the milking animals are fed; ~~and~~
- a milking area housing at least one milking robot for milking the milking animals, ~~wherein~~
 - wherein at least one of said resting area and said feeding area is partitioned in sections which corresponds to the number of said groups, to which said milking animals belong; and
 - a device including a plurality of selection gates and a plurality of animal identification members, the device provided for automatically directing each of said milking animals moving towards said at least one of said resting area and said feeding area, which is partitioned in sections, into one of said sections depending on the group, to which the respective milking animal belongs, so that each of said sections will house milking animals belonging to one only of said groups,
 - wherein said device and said arrangement are configured to mix the plurality of groups including the large number of milking animals in at least one of said resting, feeding and milking areas.

2. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein said milking area

houses a plurality of milking boxes, each of which being adapted to receive a respective milking animal, wherein said at least one milking robot is adapted to milk milking animals present in the milking boxes concurrently.

3. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein said milking area houses a plurality of milking robots for milking the milking animals.

4. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the milking area is arranged so that said milking animals have to pass said milking area when moving from said resting area to said feeding area.

5. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein said at least one of said resting area and said feeding area, which is partitioned in sections, includes said resting area.

6. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 5 wherein

- said large number of milking animals are allowed to move about freely in said feeding area; and
- said device provided for directing includes a milking animal identification device provided for identifying each milking animal presenting itself in front of said device provided for directing, and a device provided for opening at least one gate depending on said milking animal identification.

7. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 5 wherein said device provided for directing includes a plurality of passage ways from said feeding area to said resting area.

8. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 7 wherein said plurality of passage ways from said feeding area to said resting area are arranged in at least two floors to effectively use available space and to provide for short passage ways.

9. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of claim 5 wherein

- each of said sections, in which said resting area is partitioned, is linked to said milking area so that the milking animals housed in the respective section have access to a subset only of said ~~plurality of~~ at least one milking robot[[s]]; and

- a device provided for automatically enlarging or reducing each of the respective subsets of the ~~plurality of~~ at least one milking robot[[s]], to which milking animals housed in the respective section have access, depending on the number of milking animals housed in the respective section, or on the milking capacity required by the milking animals housed in the respective section.

10. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein said at least one of said resting area and said feeding area, which is partitioned in sections, includes said feeding area.

11. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 9 wherein

- said large number of milking animals are allowed to move about freely in said resting area; and
- said device provided for directing includes a milking animal identification device provided for identifying each milking animal presenting itself for milking in said milking area , and a device provided for opening at least one gate , optionally after the milking animal has been milked, depending on said milking animal identification.

12. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein milking animals having similar milk production belong to one of said plurality of groups.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein milking animals being in similar phases of the lactation cycle belong to one of said plurality of

groups.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein milking animals on heat belong to one of said plurality of groups.

15. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein gestation milking animals belong to one of said plurality of groups.

16. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein infected or ill milking animals belong to one of said plurality of groups.

17. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 further comprising driving means, particularly a movable fence, partition, wire or live wire, for driving milking animals in said resting area towards said milking area .

18. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 wherein said large number of milking animals is at least about 200.

19. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 comprising means for altering the belonging from one to another one of said plurality of groups for at least one of said milking animals.

20. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1 comprising means for automatically altering the partitions in sections of said at least one of said resting area and said feeding area.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-controlled arrangement for housing a large number of milking animals, each of which belongs to one of a plurality of groups, said arrangement comprising:

- a resting area wherein the milking animals are allowed to rest;
- a feeding area wherein the milking animals are fed; and

- a milking area housing at least one milking robot for milking the animals and a plurality of milking boxes, each of which being adapted to receive a respective milking animal, wherein said at least one milking robot is adapted to milk milking animals present in said plurality of milking boxes concurrently, wherein
- said resting area is partitioned in sections, each of which being adapted to house milking animals belonging to one of said plurality of groups, and each of which being linked to said milking area so that milking animals housed in the respective section have access to a subset only of said plurality of milking boxes; and
- a device provided for automatically enlarging or reducing each of the respective subsets of the plurality of milking boxes, to which milking animals housed in a section have access, depending on the number of milking animals housed in the respective section or on the milking capacity required by the milking animals housed in the respective section.

22. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 21 wherein said milking area houses a plurality of milking robots, each of which being adapted to milk milking animals present in at least one of said plurality of milking boxes.

23. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 21 wherein said device provided for automatically enlarging or reducing each of the respective subsets of the plurality of milking boxes comprises at least one computer-controlled movable partition means, particularly a movable fence, partition, wire or live wire.

24. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 21 wherein the milking area is arranged so that said milking animals have to pass said milking area when moving from said resting area to said feeding area.

25. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 21 further comprising

driving means , particularly a movable fence, partition, wire or live wire, for driving milking animals in at least one of said sections of said resting area towards said milking area .

26. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 21 wherein milking animals having similar milk production, milking animals being in similar phases of the lactation cycle, milking animals on heat, gestation milking animals, or ill milking animals belong to one of said plurality of groups.

27. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 21 wherein

- said large number of milking animals are allowed to move about freely in said feeding area or in said milking area ; and
- said arrangement further comprises a device provided for automatically directing each of said milking animals moving towards said resting area , which is partitioned in sections, into one of said sections depending on the group, to which the respective milking animal belongs, so that each of said sections will house milking animals belonging to one of said groups, wherein
- said device provided for directing includes a milking animal identification device provided for identifying each milking animal presenting itself in front of said device provided for directing, and a device provided for opening at least one gate depending on said milking animal identification.

28. (New) A computer-controlled arrangement for voluntary milking of a large number of milking animals, each of which belongs to one of a plurality of groups, said arrangement comprising:

- a resting area wherein the milking animals are allowed to rest;
- a feeding area wherein the milking animals are fed;
- a milking area housing at least one milking robot for milking the milking animals presenting themselves in the milking area if the presented milking animals satisfy a milking decision criteria,

- wherein at least one of said resting area and said feeding area

is partitioned in sections which corresponds to the number of said groups, to which said milking animals belong; and

- a device provided for automatically directing each of said milking animals moving towards said at least one of said resting area and said feeding area, which is partitioned in sections, into one of said sections depending on the group, to which the respective milking animal belongs, so that each of said sections will house milking animals belonging to one only of said groups.

29. (New) A computer-controlled arrangement for housing a large number of milking animals, each of which belongs to one of a plurality of groups, said arrangement comprising:

- a resting area wherein the milking animals are allowed to rest;
- a feeding area wherein the milking animals are fed;
- a milking area housing at least one milking robot for milking the milking animals, animals of each of the said plurality of groups having simultaneous access to the milking area,
 - wherein at least one of said resting area and said feeding area is partitioned in sections which corresponds to the number of said groups, to which said milking animals belong; and
 - a device provided for automatically directing each of said milking animals moving towards said at least one of said resting area and said feeding area, which is partitioned in sections, into one of said sections depending on the group, to which the respective milking animal belongs, so that each of said sections will house milking animals belonging to one only of said groups.